

### **REMARKS**

The Office Action dated December 21, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 2-8, 10-15, and 17 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 1 and 9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-8 and 10-17 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 7, 9, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Haapoja (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0127982). Claims 2-6, 8, 10-14, and 16, however, were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 9 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 10, which were indicated as being allowable, have been rewritten to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-8 and 11-16 are dependent upon claims 2 and 10, respectively. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8 and 10-16 are currently in condition for allowance.

In addition, Applicants amended claim 17 to recite similar limitations to that of claim 2. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is also in condition for allowance.

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8 and 10-17 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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